THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Government's attention has been drawn to reports regarding CBI probe into purchase of bogies & couplers bought as well as losses to PSUs manufacturing wagons due to very low rates. The Board of Directors of BBUNL is seized of the issue of purchase of bogies and couplers. Ministry of Railways places orders for wagons on competitive prices, determined on the basis of open tenders.

Suspension .of Operation at RCW, Raniganj

830. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a notice has been issued on-30th June,.2000 declaring suspension of operation in the ""Refractory and Ceramic Works, Raniganj (Lalkuthi Works)" from 1st July, 2000; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHJ1UA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) BIFR had sanctioned a rehabilitation package of M/s. Burn Standard Co. Ltd. on 16.4.1999. The main strategy for revival was to revive/revitalise the operations of the company's works, only at Howrah, Burnpur and Salem. BIFR revival scheme did not envisage revival of 7 loss making refractoring units (LRUs). All the employees of these units were to be offered VRS and budgetary support of Rs. 9.00 crores each was to be provided during the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 as interest free non-plan assistance for payment of salary & wages to be recovered from sale of their assets. Notice of Suspension of operations in Raniganj and Lalkoti Works are therefore in conformity with BIFR revival scheme.

Closing down of unviable PSUs

831. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state: